

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (previously presented) An image correction apparatus which corrects a correction target image based on preference of a user, comprising:

a user preference obtaining unit outputting a plurality of corrected image variations of a given image, the variation corrected images including one representing the corrected image of a quality preferred widely among a large number of people and having been stored in said image correction apparatus;

allowing the user to select a preferred one from the corrected image variations;

deriving a preference data set of the user according to a result of the user's selection and the given image and storing the preference data set; and

an image correction unit, so required, automatically correcting the correction target image in a predetermined manner and using the stored preference data set to correct further the image resulting from the automatic correction.

2. (original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said given images are a plurality of images, and said user preference obtaining unit outputs images at two or more correction levels corresponding to the plurality of given images to allow the user to select preferred corrected images.

3. (original) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
said plurality of given images are different in type, and said user preference obtaining unit allows the user to select preferred corrected image corresponding to each type.

4. (cancelled)

5. (original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
a user specified image input unit receiving a user specified image as the given image.

6. (original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said user preference obtaining unit requests a user to input a user identifier for identification of the user, and allows each user to select a preferred corrected image.

7. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein: said user preference obtaining unit prints and outputs images at two or more correction levels; and said apparatus further comprises a image printing unit printing and outputting an image to be corrected which has actually been corrected by said image correction unit.

8 - 14 (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) An image correcting method for correcting a correction target image based on preference of a user, comprising:

- outputting a plurality of corrected image variations of a given image, the variation of corrected images including one representing the corrected image of a quality preferred widely among a large number of people and having been stored by said image correcting method;
- allowing the user to select a preferred one from the corrected image variations;
- deriving a preference data set of the user according to a result of the user's selection and the given image and storing the preference data set; and
- automatically correcting the correction target in a predetermined manner and using the stored preference data set to correct further the image resulting from the automatic correction.

16 – 23 (cancelled)

24. (previously presented) A process of adjusting an image according to preferences of several users, comprising:

- displaying adjusted images to each of the users where the adjusted images are an original image to which different levels of adjustment have been applied;
- allowing each of the users to select one of the adjusted image as preferred adjusted image;
- determining the preferred adjusted image preferred by the users as a group preferred adjusted image;

storing adjustment parameters associated with the group preferred adjusted image;
presenting to a new user the group preferred adjusted image and variations of the group preferred adjusted image;
allowing the new user to select one of the group preferred or variation images; and
automatically adjusting subsequent images for the new user responsive to the selection by the new user.

25. (previously presented) An image correction apparatus which corrects a correction target image based on preference of a user, comprising:

a user preference obtaining unit outputting a plurality of corrected image variations of a given image, the variation of corrected images including one representing the corrected image of a quality preferred widely among a large number of people and having been stored in said image correction apparatus;

allowing the user to select a preferred one from the corrected image variations;

deriving a preference data set of the user according to a result of the user's selection and the given image and storing the preference data set; and

an image correction unit, so required, automatically correcting the correction target image in a predetermined manner and using the stored preference data set to correct further the image resulting from the automatic correction, wherein a user may register various kinds of preferences using different user name variations respectively.

26 -27 (cancelled)